

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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O R 091621Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8199
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: YADIN REJECTS BEGIN'S PROPOSALS FOR JOINING COALITION

REF: TEL AVIV 6032

1. SUMMARY: BEGIN'S LATEST EFFORTS TO BRING THE DMC INTO HIS GOVERNMENT GOT NOWHERE WHEN YADIN REJECTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROPOSALS AIMED AT MEETING THE DMC'S DEMANDS ON ELECTORAL REFORM AND A SOCIAL BETTERMENT MINISTRY WHICH WOULD INCLUDE HEALTH. IF BEGIN PROCEEDS TO NAME MINISTERS TO THE THREE PORTFOLIOS HE IS HONORING FOR THE DMC (HE SAYS HE WILL BY THE TIME THE KNESSET RECONVENES IN OCTOBER) IT WILL MEAN THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS SETTLING DOWN WITH ITS CURRENT MEMBERSHIP. END SUMMARY

2. A RENEWAL OF LIKUD-DMC COALITION TALKS ON SEPTEMBER 7

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QUICKLY FOUNDERED WHEN DMC LEADER YIGAL YADIN TURNED DOWN PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S PROPOSALS FOR JOINING THE GOVERNMENT. YADIN MET WITH BEGIN FOR OVER AN HOUR, AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S INVITATION, TO DISCUSS THE TWO DMC CONDITIONS FOR JOINING WHICH HAD BEEN STUMBLING BLOCKS IN LAST MONTH'S UNSUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS: ELECTORAL REFORM AND COMBINING THE HEALTH MINISTRY WITH A NEW MIN-

ISTRY OF SOCIAL BETTERMENT. BEGIN PROPOSED SETTING UP A FOUR-MEMBER COMMITTEE TO STUDY ELECTORAL REFORM AND ADDING HEALTH TO THE SOCIAL BETTERMENT MINISTRY FOLLOWING ENACTMENT OF A NATIONAL HEALTH LAW, WHICH BEGIN PREDICTED WOULD OCCUR THIS WINTER OR WITHIN A YEAR "AT THE LATEST." YADIN CALLED THE PROPOSALS IDENTICAL TO THOSE THE DMC REJECTED LAST MONTH AND IN PART "A RETRACTION OF WHAT WAS OFFERED THEN."

3. THAT NIGHT, BEFORE A MEETING OF THE DMC COUNCIL, YADIN REPORTED ON HIS DISCUSSION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND REFERRED TO BEGIN'S PROPOSALS AS A PLOY TO SPLIT THE DMC. IN FACT, A LARGE NUMBER OF COUNCIL MEMBERS LED BY MK MEIR AMIT AND ISRAEL GRANIT HAD REQUESTED A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION OF AUGUST 3 (TEL AVIV 5777) TO REMAIN IN OPPOSITION. ON SEPTEMBER 8 AMIT, CITING YADIN'S ADAMACY AGAINST JOINING, WITHDREW HIS SUPPORT FOR A SPECIAL COUNCIL SESSION.

4. YADIN'S SPEECH TO THE SEPTEMBER 7 COUNCIL MEETING WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT AND WAS DELIVERED WITH CONSIDERABLE EMOTION. ATTEMPTS BY SOME COUNCIL MEMBERS TO PROVOKE A DEBATE ON YADIN'S REPORT WERE SUMMARILY SUPPRESSED. MOST COUNCIL MEMBERS APPEARED WILLING TO FOLLOW YADIN'S LEAD IN ATTACHING LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE TO BEGIN'S LATEST ATTEMPT TO ENTICE THE DMC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTO THE COALITION.

5. THIS THIRD FAILURE OF COALITION TALKS MAY BE THE LAST ATTEMPT FOR SOME TIME TO BROADEN THE PRESENT COALITION. A CLUE TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF RENEWING TALKS WITH THE DMC WOULD BE PROVIDED IF BEGIN DECIDES TO APPOINT MINISTERS TO THE THREE PORTFOLIOS HE IS HOLDING FOR YADIN'S PARTY. IN HIS NEW YEAR'S INTERVIEW SEPTEMBER 6 OVER IDF RADIO, BEGIN INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NAME MINISTERS FROM THE COALITION PARTNERS FOR THE THREE SLOTS BY THE TIME THE KNESSET'S WINTER SESSION BEGINS IN OCTOBER. SUCH A MOVE WOULD INDICATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS SETTLING DOWN TO ITS EXISTING MEMBERSHIP. IN THE MEANTIME, A DMC SOURCE (MK AKIVA NOFF) INFORMED US THAT THE DMC IS NOW DEFINITELY ORGANIZING ITSELF TO FULFILL AN IMPORTANT OPPOSITION ROLE. WITH THE LABOR ALIGNMENT IN CONTINUED DISARRAY, MOST DMC STALWARTS ARE BEGINNING TO REGARD THEIR PARTY AS THE KEY OPPOSITION FORCE IN THE KNESSET. YET THERE REMAINS STRONG WENTIMENT IN THE DMC FOR JOINING THE GOVERNMENT. IT WAS THIS URGE THAT BEGIN WAS COUNTING ON WHEN HE OFFERED YADIN WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY A REHASH OF WHAT THE LIKUD PROPOSED LAST MONTH.

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